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We Are Columbia

City eNews



Run. Grow. Transform.



CITY OF COLUMBIA TO HOST 2015 BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH

The City of Columbia's 2015 Back-to-School Bash — a free event for elementary, middle and high school students — will be held on Saturday, August 8 at Finlay Park.

The bash will feature a book bag and school supply giveaway, health screenings, a health and wellness zone, entertainment, fitness challenges, exhibitors and more! Children must be present to receive a book bag and school supplies.

The event is **FREE** and open to the public.

WHERE: Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street, Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Saturday, August 8, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, please call 803-545-3100.

CITY OF COLUMBIA TOSSES THE BIN FOR RECYCLING ROLL CARTS

On July 14, 2015, the City of Columbia Solid Waste Division announced that the curbside recycling program will be upgraded from the 18-gallon bins to 95-gallon roll carts for residents.

“Today, the City of Columbia has taken a major step toward expanding our efforts to build a greener community. The new recycling roll carts will not only be beneficial to our citizens, but they will also enhance the city’s ability to significantly increase the amount of recyclable items collected in our recycling program. These types of initiatives are good examples of the Build Columbia platform and help us to run, grow and transform our city,” says City Manager Teresa Wilson.

The new changes were made possible in part by the Recycling Partnership. The Recycling Partnership uses public-private partnerships to help local governments get the most out of the recycling program. The City applied for the grant early in 2014 and was announced a winner in September 2014.

The Recycling Partnership has invested \$300,000 in the City’s recycling program and has provided integral technical assistance to better enhance the program. Columbia is one of four inaugural cities in the grant program.

“The Recycling Partnership is very proud to partner with the City of Columbia as an inaugural city partner. The City has all the pieces in place to drive a dramatic increase in material recovery. We especially appreciate the commitment of City officials and staff and resident’s readiness to embrace a modern recycling program,” says Executive Director Keefe Harrison.

With the roll cart upgrade, citizens will have five times the capacity for recycling and projections show a 500 percent increase in pounds per household collected. Currently, City residents average 75 pounds per household in recycling. The new roll carts also present the expectation that the garbage tonnage will decrease.

Carts will start being delivered on Monday, July 27, 2015. The delivery process will take approximately two weeks. The delivery crew will work Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Residents will receive an information packet with the cart that contains a letter, kitchen magnet and service card. Once residents receive the new cart, the new collection schedule will be effective immediately. Residents can keep the blue bin for indoor use or recycle it in the new cart.

Recycling will now be collected twice per month. Garbage and yard waste will remain on a weekly collection schedule. Beginning July 27, residents can visit www.columbiasc.net to download a collection calendar and sign up for reminder notifications or download the free Columbia, SC Solid Waste app on their smartphone. The mobile app is available in the Apple App Store and Google Play.

The City's curbside recycling program began in 1991 with the 18-gallon bins. Throughout the past 24 years, the City has expanded its recycling program to businesses, restaurants and bars. Ongoing education and outreach efforts are targeted to increase the recycling participation rate and bring awareness to how recycling benefits the community.

For more information about the City of Columbia's recycling program, please visit www.columbiasc.net or call Samantha Yager at 803-545-3803. To learn more about The Recycling Partnerships work in the community, please visit www.recyclecurbside.org.

CITY KICKERS SOCCER LEAGUE REGISTRATION OPEN

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for its City Kickers Soccer League.

Children ages 3-14 can play in the youth soccer program. The fee to participate is \$25 per participant. Scholarships are available to those who qualify.

The last day to register is Sunday, August 16, 2015. The City Kickers Soccer League season begins the week of September 14, 2015.

Registration forms are available and can be submitted at any community recreation center or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

To download a registration form, visit the [Parks & Recreation's Athletics page online](#) and click on "Youth Registration Form."

For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.



95-gallon roll carts for residents



CPD's 2015 FAN THE HEAT PROGRAM

Columbia Police Chief Skip Holbrook announces that the Columbia Police Department is now accepting donations for the Annual 'Fan the Heat' Program.

In order to make this year's event a success, donations from the public are needed.

In particular, CPD will be collecting fans, air conditioning units and financial contributions for worthy citizens until Monday, August 31. Air conditioning units are of greater need.

Donations can be dropped off at CPD Headquarters located at #1 Justice Square at any time. Citizens who wish to make a monetary donation can make a check payable to: The Columbia Police Foundation. (Note the "Fan the Heat" Program on the check.)

Since its inception in 1995, the Fan the Heat program has assisted more than 7,000 Columbia citizens.

The program is primarily designed for senior citizens, residents with medical concerns/ disabilities and families with small children.

Eligibility requirements include:
Citizens must be 55 years-old or older.

Citizens must provide name, address, telephone number (to ensure that the fan or air conditioner is delivered to the correct address)

Exception:

If a person has respiratory problems or a major illness, he or she can bring in a doctor's statement regardless of age to receive assistance.

If a citizen needs assistance from the Fan the Heat program, they can call the Crime Prevention Unit at 803-545-3555; or CPD's Telephone Response Unit at 545-3500.



Click [here](#) to view
City Talk interview.



SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

The Summer Concert Series will be held from 8 to 10 p.m. in Finlay Park located at 930 Laurel Street on the following dates:

August 1—LTD
August 15— Midnight Star

All concerts are **FREE** and open to the public. Attendees are welcome to bring blankets and lawn chairs. No pets allowed. Vendors will be available.

For more information, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out is a yearlong community-building campaign designed to: (1) heighten crime prevention awareness, (2) generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs, (3) strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and (4) send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

On Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2015, participating Columbia neighborhoods will host their own National Night Out activities.

Click to view a full list of [participating neighborhoods hosting National Night Out activities](#).

For more information, please contact the Columbia Police Department at 803-545-3500, Community Development at 803-545-3373 or www.ColumbiaSC.net.

BUSINESS FRIENDLY PRACTICES

The Business Friendly Task Force, under the leadership of David Brandes, Genesis Consulting Group, Ryan Coleman, City of Columbia, and Sparty Hammett, Richland County, and numerous team members, have worked diligently to improve those processes.

Brandes, Coleman, and Hammett shared highlights of their work at the Columbia Chamber's Midday Connections luncheon meeting on Thursday, July 23. Over 50 local partners were in attendance.

Ryan Coleman reminded the group, "It's all about making you comfortable with the business processes, we are here for you and we want you to call us for assistance."



L:R :Carl Blackstone, CEO and President, Columbia Chamber and Ryan Coleman, City's Economic Development Office.

PAY BY PHONE APP REVAMPS PARKING IN THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, SC

Drivers in the City of Columbia can get ready to pull out their phones to park! With Passport's mobile payment system, available in early August, residents and visitors can use mobile parking payment technology in all of the City's 5,000 parking spaces. The app, developed by Charlotte, NC-based Passport, is free to download and gives users a much simpler option than paying at the parking meter.

"This installation of Passport is a large component of the City's initiatives to revamp our parking program," said John Spade, Parking Director for the City of Columbia. "We know that parkers in Columbia will embrace this upgrade in technology, and it will make the process of parking one less thing to stress about."

After thoroughly researching various mobile payment providers through a competitive bidding process, the City selected Passport, the industry leader in mobile payments for parking and transit to provide this service. Passport has successfully launched its mobile payment platform in cities like Chicago, Boston, Tucson, and even nearby in Charleston, SC.

Passport has also launched the City of Columbia's custom transit mobile ticketing system, called "Catch the Comet," throughout the City's bus lines. Through Passport's partnership with Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority, bus riders are able to pay for their bus pass and display payment directly from the Catch the Comet app on their phone.

"It's very exciting to bring our service to the City of Columbia's parking program," said Nate Berry, Vice President of Sales at Passport. "We're very proud to be making the process of getting around the City as convenient as possible, whether it be paying for parking or riding the bus."

Drivers can begin taking advantage of this cutting edge technology in early August. Besides paying to park through the app, users can receive a reminder notification before their session expires, extend their parking session up until the maximum allotted time, and validate their parking at participating locations.

The Passport mobile app is available in the Apple App Store and Google Play. The City's parking meters will also display signage instructing users to download the PassportParking app. Smartphone users can also use the new service by going to <https://m.ppprk.com> to create their account.



We Are Columbia



COLUMBIA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HOLDS RIBBON CUTTING FOR NEW HOMES

The Columbia Housing Development Corporation and its Board of Directors held a ribbon cutting for the newly constructed homes in the Lyon Street community on Thursday, July 30, 2015.

Attendees had the opportunity to tour the homes located at 2521 Washington Street and 2533 Washington Street. The remaining homes are located at 1322 McDuffie Street, 1318 McDuffie Street, 1312 McDuffie Street and 1302 McDuffie Street. All six homes are on the market for purchase.

“When I look at this project, I don’t just see quality affordable homes,” said Mayor Benjamin. “I see Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas morning. I see children doing their homework at the kitchen table and playing in the yard. I see birthdays and anniversaries and all the milestones that make up our lives shared and cherished by friends and family and I see it all happening here.”

“Each of these homes is a dream come true for a hard-working family, a piece of the American Dream made possible, and we are made stronger as a city and a people because of it.”

The homes were built to provide affordable homeownership options in the City limits. Low interest rate financing is available to qualifying families and individuals through the City’s loan programs and their partner banks. The City’s Community Development Department provided \$738,715 in federal HOME funds to finance this project.

“Homeownership is the foundation for building strong neighborhoods and Columbia is proud of our continuous progress with building new homes across the city,” said City Manager Teresa Wilson. “New houses bring a new sense of vitality and energy to a neighborhood and that energy is then transferred throughout the entire community. Once these houses are filled with families they truly become homes and the new residents become stakeholders in their new neighborhood.”

The two-story floor plan is 1278 square feet and comprise of three bedrooms with two and one-half baths and the single-story floor plan is 1365 square feet with three bedrooms and two full baths. Additional features include:

- Stainless steel appliance packages to include washer and dryer
- Over the range microwave
- Tank-less water heater
- Kitchen backsplash and recessed lighting
- Cultured marble bathroom counter tops
- Crown molding in master bedroom and great room
- Two-inch faux blinds and smooth ceilings

For more information, contact the Columbia Housing Development Corporation at 803-545-3767.



Home of The Month

August 2015

Home of the Month

2521 WASHINGTON STREET

- LOCATED IN THE LYON STREET COMMUNITY
- NEWLY CONSTRUCTED
- APPROX 1,278 SQ. FT.
- 3 BED/2.5 BATHS
- STAINLESS STEEL APPLIANCES
- WASHER/DRYER
- ENERGY STAR CERTIFIED



\$113,000

NEED A LOAN? THE CITY LOAN PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO HELP ARRANGE AFFORDABLE HOME LOANS IN COLUMBIA FOR FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS. APPLICANTS MUST MEET INCOME GUIDELINES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE COLUMBIA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AT (803) 545-3769 OR WWW.COLUMBIASC.NET/CHDC.



Girls Golf Clinics

The James E. Clyburn Golf Center
presents **Girls Golf Clinics**



The **Girls Golf Clinics** are **FREE** clinics held every other Saturday until October 31 at the James E. Clyburn Center, a LPGA-USGA Girls Golf site. The James E. Clyburn Golf Center is located at 2091 Slighs Avenue.



The clinics will be held from **10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.**, and attendees will learn the fundamentals, etiquette and rules of golf. No equipment is necessary. The **Girls Golf Clinics** are open to girls ages 5-18.



To register, visit <http://www.columbiasc.net/parks-recreation/athletics/golf>.



We Are Columbia

For more information, please call 803-255-8920.



Click [here](#) to view City Talk interview.

#FoodShareColumbia

FoodShare Columbia

Good Healthy Food For All

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation, Richland Library, USC School of Medicine, EdVenture Children's Museum and the Columbia Housing Authority are partnering to bring Fresh Food Boxes to your Community!

What is a Fresh Food Box?

A real box of food filled with top-quality fruits and vegetables from local and regional farmers.



Cost: \$20; \$10 for SNAP Participants. Cash and EBT are accepted
Fresh Food Boxes may be ordered twice per month Monday through Friday between 10 AM—2 PM and 4 PM—7 PM.

Place your order at Bellfield Cultural Arts Center, 2611 Grant Street
Fresh Food Boxes must be preordered.



FoodShare Columbia connects families and communities with affordable, fresh fruits and vegetables through the use of a Fresh Food Box.

For more information, call 803-255-8161.



Click [here](#) to view City Talk interview.

Back To School Bash

 The City of Columbia presents...



FREE!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2015
11A - 3P
FINLAY PARK
930 Laurel Street

For Elementary, Middle & High School Students

Book Bag & School Supply Giveaways (**Child must be present**),
Health Screenings, Health & Wellness Zone, Fitness Challenges,
Games, Entertainment, Exhibitors, Refreshments & More!

    

    

For more information, call 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

Certification Workshop



Charles R. Drew Wellness Center

2101 Walker Solomon Way, Columbia, SC 29204

803-545-3200

www.drewwellnesscenter.com

GROUP EXERCISE INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP

Register today for this two-day certification workshop that will help you gain the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to safely and effectively teach group exercise classes.



WHEN: Saturday, August 29
9 AM - 6 PM
Extensive Exam Review*
(Optional but recommended for those with less experience in the field.)

Sunday, August 30
9 AM - 6 PM
Exam Day

WHERE: Drew Wellness Center
2101 Walker Solomon Way
Columbia, SC 29204

COST: \$299*

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES:

- Study guide
- Exam
- One-year AFAA membership
- Certificate and ID Card
- Subscription to *American Fitness®* magazine

(*Fee does not include recommended textbook, *Fitness: Theory & Practice*, 5th Edition or the additional \$129 fee for extensive exam review)

To register, visit www.afaa.com. For more information, please contact Britney Sanders at 803-545-3200 or bcsanders@columbaisc.net.



Membership Specials



Charles R. Drew Wellness Center
2101 Walker Solomon Way, Columbia, SC 29204
803-545-3200
www.drewwellnesscenter.com

BACK-TO-SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL

Take advantage of our back-to-school discount on membership rates for new or renewing **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS** now through August 31.

Annual Membership	Regular Rate (Resident/Non-Resident)	Back-to-School Special (Ends August 31)
ADULT (18-49)	\$264/\$304	\$210
SENIOR (50+)	\$198/\$228	\$160
FAMILY (Up to 4 people)	\$396/\$456	\$325



Join today and save
up to 30% off your
annual memberships!

For more information, please call the Drew Wellness Center at 803-545-3200.



We Are Columbia

www.columbiasc.net

Meetings

DATE/TIME	TYPE OF MEETING	LOCATION
August 3 at 5:15pm	PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING	1737 Main Street Council Chambers
August 4 at 12pm	CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION	1737 Main Street City Hall
August 4 at 1pm	CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION	1737 Main Street City Council Confer-
August 11 at 10am	BOZA MEETING	1737 Main Street Council Chambers
August 18 at 2pm	CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION	1737 Main Street City Hall
August 18 at 6pm	CITY COUNCIL MEETING	1737 Main Street Council Chambers
August 19 at 11am	CEZ, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING	1509 Lady Street Conference Room
August 25 at 11am	ECDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING	3905 Ensor Ave Eau Claire Town Hall

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